#### FACT SHEET: BULK & GREEN WASTE COLLECTION CHANGES

In our ongoing efforts to increase efficiency, save money and help the environment, the city of Tempe is changing the way we collect uncontained bulk and green waste. In addition to providing an overview of the reasons for these changes, the following is intended to provide residents with the information they need to ensure that this important service continues to meet their needs in a sensible, sustainable and cost effective manner.

### What's changing?

Starting in July 2013, our bulk and brush collection program will change to:

- Six collections per year:
  - o four (4) collections dedicated to GREEN WASTE ONLY so it can be turned into nutrient-rich compost
  - o two (2) collections for **MIXED** uncontained waste
- The six collections will be scheduled so that residents will receive two green waste collections then a mixed collection, then two green collections and another mixed. This collection rhythm mirrors the high tonnage months (green) and the lower tonnage months (mixed) as best we can on a citywide basis.
- The amount of green and mixed waste allowed for each collection will be limited to approximately 10 cubic yards picture a pile about 15 feet long, 6 feet high and 3 feet deep, OR roughly the size of a full size pickup truck bed.

### Why are these changes necessary?

• The City's solid waste fund is an enterprise fund – meaning revenue (rates) must support expenditures in order to operate. Graph 1, below, illustrates the gap between revenues and expenditures that must be closed by increasing revenue, decreasing expenditures, or a combination of both.



Graph 1 - City of Tempe Long Range Forecast - Solid Waste Fund (February 21, 2013)

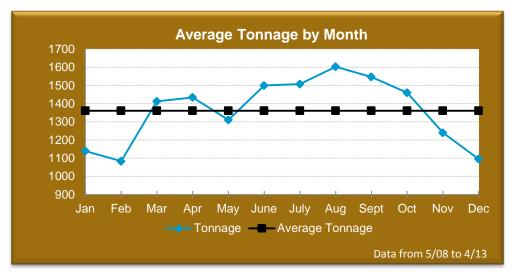
- The city of Tempe has not raised its monthly residential solid waste rates for the past three years.
- The current cost of service for weekly trash collection, weekly recycle collection, and monthly bulk and brush collection services including vehicles, personnel, tonnage collected and diverted, miles driven, and landfill fees combined with current revenue (solid waste rates), results in a significant and increasing gap between revenue and expenditures now and going forward.
- Tempe's Public Works Department has committed to the Mayor, City Council and our residents to make sure our overall trash and recycling operations are as financially, socially, and environmentally sustainable as possible before considering any type of rate adjustment.

- Last year, the City completed a comprehensive review of its monthly bulk and brush collection program; the following is a summary of the key elements/findings of the <u>current</u> program:
  - · Cost of service for the monthly brush/bulk collection represents more than a third (\$7.00+) of the monthly bill.
  - · On average our monthly set out rate is approximately 25% (most residents don't use the service every month).
  - · Approximately 70% of the material we collect is green-waste.
  - · Collection tonnage fluctuates significantly throughout the year, as shown in Graph 3, below.

**Graph 2 – Bulk Trash – Green and Mixed Waste** 



**Graph 3 - Five Year Monthly Average Tonnage** 



# How will these changes benefit the community?

Financial and environmental benefits of the streamlined program include:

- The number of annual miles driven is cut in half.
- Reduction in fuel usage saves fuel costs and reduces greenhouse gas emissions by more than 100 metric tons/year.
- Elimination of at least six collection vehicles, resulting in savings of approximately \$1.5M over the next few years.
- Elimination of two vacant Equipment Operator positions.

# What if I need supplemental assistance with green/bulk waste?

- Use of two convenient transfer station locations click here <a href="http://www.tempe.gov/index.aspx?page=1006">http://www.tempe.gov/index.aspx?page=1006</a> for information.
- On-call collection services starting at \$31 per quarter hour call (480)350-4311 to schedule a service estimate.
- Assistance with neighborhood cleanups Call 480-350-4311 for participation requirements.
- To schedule a collection of a refrigerator, freezer, stove or other large metal appliance, click here:

http://www.tempe.gov/index.aspx?page=2575

Click here to access <u>video of Council Issue Review Session</u> presentations for more detailed information

- June 14, 2012 Solid Waste Cost of Services Study
- November 15, 2012 Solid Waste Policy Update
- April 4, 2013 Brush and Bulky Item Communication Plan